
WIKI BASICS

tecshop.wikispaces.com/wikis

OVERVIEW

Wiki: A Website that allows visitors to make changes, contributions, or corrections.

In Hawaiian, “wiki wiki” means “hurry quick”. Wikis are meant to be a quick and easy way to create a simple webpage.

A Wiki is a powerful tool for constructivist learning environments because it facilitates **collaboration**. (A constructivist is a “thinker.”) Students must **know something** about a topic or subject in order to add it to the wiki. A wiki allows students to share what they know.

VIDEO - In Plain English

<http://www.commoncraft.com/video/wikis>

Handout -

http://digitallyspeaking.pbworks.com/f/Handout_TeacherTipsWikiProjects.pdf

How can I use a wiki in education?

<http://educationalwikis.wikispaces.com/>

Eight Ways to Use School Wikis -

<http://www.techlearning.com/article/eight-ways-to-use-school-wikis/46216>

High School Online Collaborative Writing -

http://schools.wikia.com/wiki/Main_Page

Ways to Use Wikis in the Classroom (from

<http://www.teachersfirst.com>)

- **Vocabulary lists** and examples of the words in use, contributed by students (ongoing throughout the year).
- The wiki as the organizational and intellectual epicenter of your class (see the [Aristotle experiment](#)) - Wiki **all assignments, projects, collaboration, rubrics**, etc.
- Products of **research projects**, especially collaborative group projects: civil war battles, artistic movements, the American electoral process, diseases and prevention, etc. Remember that the products do not have to be simply writing. They can include computer files, images, videos, etc. Creating an organizational structure for the content is an important part of the project.
- An annotated **collection of** for anything: supply/demand, capitalism, entrepreneurship, triangles, alliterations, vertebrates or invertebrates, etc. Include illustrations wherever possible.
- **What I Think Will Be on the Test** wiki: a place to log review information for important concepts throughout the year, prior to taking the “high stakes” test, AP test, or final exam.
- An **“everything I needed to know I learned in Ms.Teachername’s class”** wiki where students add their own observations of ways the class knowledge has spilled over into the “real world.”
- A **travelogue from a field trip**.
- An **FAQ** (or NSFAQ- Not So Frequently Asked Questions) wiki on your current unit topic. Have students post KWL entries and continue adding questions that occur to them as the unit progresses. As other students add their “answers,” the wiki will evolve into a student-created guide to the topic.
- **Study guides** made by student groups for themselves and peers: each group prepares the guide for one aspect of the unit or responsibility rotates: one unit guide per semester.

More Ideas from TeachersFirst - <http://www.teachersfirst.com/content/wiki/wikiideas1.cfm>

BASICS

Tour of Wikispaces - <http://www.wikispaces.com/content/wiki-tour#introduction>



Wikispaces for Teachers - <http://www.wikispaces.com/content/for/teachers>

Choose the free wiki for teachers!

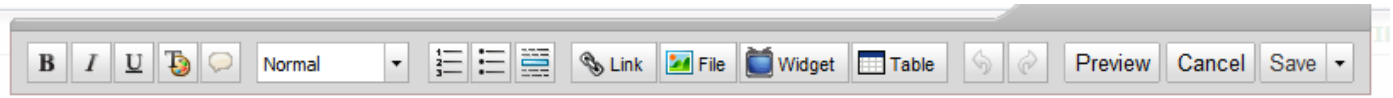
My Subscription	
Plan	Your wiki is currently on our Plus plan. Your wiki is currently on our K-12 Education (Primary and Secondary) Plus plan. Your K-12 Education (Primary and Secondary) Plus plan wiki is free, compliments of Wikispaces.
End Date	Your plan has no expiration date.

Wikispaces Help for Teachers - <http://help.wikispaces.com/>

Wiki Tips or “Twiki Issues”

- Keep it simple!
- Use plain formatting for text. Wild, crazy formatting doesn't always look right and makes readability difficult. If you want colorful text, it is suggested that you choose dark colors.
- Have students take turns editing. You may have problems if they are editing the same page at the same time.
- If you choose to embed video, Voki, Glogster, or other elements, remember that it will slow your wiki speed and sometimes not work properly.
- You may have to repair and tweak pages regularly.
- Wikispaces DOES NOT have a spell checker. Use Word to type drafts and copy/paste into the wiki.
- Develop guidelines to deter discipline issues such as vandalizing a wiki page or students destroying another's work. (Use the History section of the wiki to restore back to a previous edit.)
- Remember copyright restrictions and use proper citations. Read up on Fair Use and Creative Commons.

Adding and Editing a Page



(from left to right)

Formatting Text – bold, italics, underline, text color

Comment

Font Size

Numbers

Bullets

Horizontal line

Link

1. Link to another wiki page
2. Link to external site
3. Anchor link to another spot on this page

File – Insert images and files

Widget – Embed objects into the page

Table – Insert a table to arrange and organize

Undo/Redo

Preview – See how it actually will look after editing

Cancel – Exit without saving

Save

Arrow next to Save - Wikitext Editor or Visual Editor – toggle switch allows you to edit HTML

You need to know about these features:

Page History - Each time someone edits a page, we take a visual snapshot of the changes so you can see in a glance how much has changed. Was it one line or the whole page? Click on 'history' at the top of any page to see all changes. Then click on the screenshot to the left of each entry to see a visual representation of the changes. You can also compare any two versions of a page by clicking "select for comparison" on one version of a page and then "compare to selected" on another. Wikispaces will keep every version of every page and make it easy for members to revert back to a previous copy. You'll never have to worry about losing changes or being stuck with a new version of a page if someone makes a mistake.

Discussion Areas - Each page has its own discussion area to keep your discussions separate from your wiki pages.

Navigation Bar - On the left side of each page in your space, you'll see a "Navigation" section which you can edit by clicking the "edit navigation" link under the Navigation section. The content you put on this special page will show up on every page in your space. It's a nice way to have a common menu across all the pages in your space. It's also just like any other wiki page meaning you can put in links, headings, images, lists - anything that can be on a normal page. The only difference is that bulleted lists will not have bullets displayed in order to preserve space.